

LISTING OF THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Original) Transponder with an antenna and an electronic control circuit and comprising a metallic enclosure, wherein the antenna and the electronic control circuit are contained in a hermetical metallic enclosure.
2. (Original) Reader with an antenna and comprising an enclosure, wherein the antenna is protected from the environment by a metallic front plate that is integral with the enclosure containing the electronic control circuit.
3. (Original) Reader according to claim 2, wherein said enclosure comprises a hermetical closure.
4. (Currently Amended) Transponder ~~or reader~~ according to claim 1 ~~or 2~~, wherein the enclosure is made of stainless steel with a wall thickness between 0.2 and 0.5 mm and the frequency of the carrier wave is comprised between 20 and 50 kHz.
5. (Currently Amended) Transponder ~~or reader~~ according to claim 1 ~~or 2~~, wherein the antenna has coils which are rectangular in cross-section with the large side of the coil closely coupled to the metallic wall of the enclosure.
6. (Currently Amended) Transponder ~~or reader~~ according to claim 5, wherein an air gap is provided at the rear of said coils, opposite the enclosure or opposite the ferrite element.
7. (Currently Amended) Transponder ~~and reader~~ according to claim 1 ~~or 2~~, wherein the resonance frequency of the antenna is 5 to 20 % higher than that of the carrier.
8. (Currently Amended) Transponder ~~and reader~~ according to claim 1 ~~or 2~~, wherein the Q factor of the resonant antenna is degraded in a controlled manner by a resistance.

9. Reader according to claim 2, wherein the reception circuit is preceded by a differentiating filter.
10. (New) Reader according to claim 2, wherein the enclosure is made of stainless steel with a wall thickness between 0.2 and 0.5 mm and the frequency of the carrier wave is comprised between 20 and 50 kHz.
11. (New) Reader according to claim 2, wherein the antenna has coils which are rectangular in cross-section with the large side of the coil closely coupled to the metallic wall of the enclosure.
12. (New) Reader according to claim 11, wherein an air gap is provided at the rear of said coils, opposite the enclosure or opposite the ferrite element.
13. (New) Reader according to claim 2, wherein the resonance frequency of the antenna is 5 to 20 % higher than that of the carrier.
14. (New) Reader according to claim 2, wherein the Q factor of the resonant antenna is degraded in a controlled manner by a resistance.

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The claims have been amended to avoid multiple dependencies, reduce filing fees and to place in better form for U.S. practice.